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Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

Cuba

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Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, held its thirtieth session from 7 to 18 May 2018. The review of Cuba was held at the 16th meeting, on 16 May 2018. The delegation of Cuba was headed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Bruno Eduardo Rodriguez Parrilla. At its 18th meeting, held on 18 May 2018, the Working Group adopted the report on Cuba.

2. On 10 January 2018, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Cuba: Egypt, Nepal and Peru.

3. In accordance with paragraph 15 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to Council resolution 16/21, the following documents were issued for the review of Cuba:

(a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/30/CUB/1);

(b) A compilation prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/30/CUB/2);

(c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/30/CUB/3).

4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Belgium, Brazil, Germany, Liechtenstein, Malta, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America was transmitted to Cuba through the troika. These questions are available on the website of the universal periodic review.

I. Summary of the proceedings of the review process

A. Presentation by the State under review

5. The delegation presented the national report, highlighting the fact that it was the result of a participatory, consultative process involving both government and civil society entities.

6. Under the governments imposed by the United States until 1959, some 45 per cent of children had not attended school; 85 per cent of persons had lacked running water; farmers had lived without rights and in poverty, without ever owning the land they tilled; and immigrants had been brutally exploited. Extrajudicial executions, enforced disappearances and torture had been recurrent and discrimination, poverty and exclusion had been rampant. The Cuban Revolution led by Fidel Castro Ruz had transformed that situation and, since then, Cuba had continued to improve its economic and social development model with the aim of strengthening its political system, which enjoyed the full support of the people.

7. Cuba had continued to strengthen its legal and institutional framework for the protection and promotion of human rights and had improved the mechanisms available to the population to denounce any infringement of their rights. The protection of the right to life continued to be the highest priority and law enforcement authorities fulfilled their duties in accordance with the law and were subject to rigorous control processes and popular scrutiny.

8. Cuba had strengthened people's participation in government decision-making and the exercise of lawfully recognized freedoms, including civil and political rights. In Cuba, there was a plurality of ideas and rich debates about different aspects of the civil, political, economic, social and cultural life of the nation. Indeed, more than 1.6 million Cubans had participated in the consultation on the Conceptualization of the Cuban Economic and Social

Model for Socialist Development and the Outline of the National Plan for Economic and Social Development until 2030.

9. In Cuba, the right to participate in public affairs was not limited to the electoral process; there was not one single model of democracy or an agreed formula in that regard. Elections were held periodically and in absolute freedom, in accordance with the electoral law. They were characterized by the existence of automatic and public electoral registries, popular appointment of candidates and high turnout levels.

10. At the recent election of deputies to the National Assembly of People's Power, 86 per cent of those eligible to vote had done so, with 94 per cent of valid ballots. Such results, which were not achieved in countries usually portrayed as ideal democratic models, showed the high level of legitimacy and popular support enjoyed by the Cuban political system. The National Assembly represented Cuban society in all its diversity. Some 53 per cent of Members of Parliament were women and 41 per cent were black or mulatto; their average age was 49 years old, and 13 per cent of them were aged between 18 and 35. For 56 per cent of them, it was the first time they had been elected.

11. Cuba continued to promote the right to full equality. That was a permanent goal that it would continue to pursue relentlessly. Progress had been made in terms of preventing and addressing manifestations of discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. Cuba had also strengthened its programmes aimed at protecting children, young people, older persons and persons with disabilities.

12. Civil society in Cuba constituted a significant actor on the national scene, with over 2,200 organizations. One of the State's priorities was to guarantee the exercise of human rights, and thousands of human rights defenders in every sphere of social life enjoyed government recognition. However, as in many other countries where the rule of law prevailed, the legal system in Cuba could not be infringed upon or subverted to satisfy a foreign agenda that called for a change of regime, the constitutional order and the political system.

13. Cuba cooperated with the United Nations human rights mechanisms, which were universal and non-discriminatory. It was a party to 44 of the 61 international human rights instruments, and was among the States with the highest levels of ratifications. In 2017, Cuba had received visits from the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, and the Independent Expert on human rights and international solidarity.

14. Despite the achievements it had made, Cuba was aware of the remaining challenges and was striving to meet them. The people deserved efficient institutions to improve their well-being and quality of life and to promote social justice. In that regard, as the former President, Raúl Castro, had indicated in December 2017, more comprehensive and far-reaching efforts had been made to ensure that, at the same time as the currency system was unified, the existing distortions in terms of subsidies, prices and wholesale and retail rates would be eliminated, as they would in terms of pensions and salaries in the State sector. A Constitutional reform process would begin in the near future, with broad popular participation.

15. The strengthening of the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed on Cuba by the United States, and its extraterritorial implementation, had caused deprivation and continued to be the main obstacle to the country's development. That policy, which the international community rejected, violated the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law and represented a flagrant, massive and systematic violation of the human rights of the Cuban people. It thus qualified as an act of genocide under the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide of 1948. The delegation demanded the return to Cuba of the territory usurped by the United States Naval Base in Guantánamo, where the United States maintained a detention camp in which serious human rights violations were being committed.

16. The delegation expressed its openness to dialogue and its willingness to provide all the information requested during the universal periodic review process. There should be no double standards or politically motivated manipulation during that process. As the President

of the Council of State and Ministers, Miguel Díaz-Canel Bermúdez, had said in April 2018, there was no room for a transition that ignored or destroyed the legacy of so many years of struggle. In Cuba, by the decision of the people, there was room only for continuity of the legacy of the revolution and of the founding generation, without giving in to pressure, without fear or setbacks, always defending truth and reason, without ever renouncing sovereignty and independence, development programmes and the dream of Cubans.

B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

17. During the interactive dialogue, 143 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.

18. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Iceland, India, Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Montenegro, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, the Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, the Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, the State of Palestine, the Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United Republic of Tanzania, the United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Equatorial Guinea, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Canada, Chile, China, the Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Morocco, Trinidad and Tobago and Egypt made recommendations. The Bahamas made a statement. The complete version of the statements can be found in the webcast archived on the United Nations website.[1]

19. In response to the questions raised during the interactive dialogue, the delegation of Cuba said that enforcement authorities acted in strict compliance with the law. If unlawful violations were committed by official authorities, the penalties were severe. In Cuba, no one was unlawfully or arbitrarily arrested and no one was prosecuted or convicted, except by a competent court under laws adopted prior to the commission of the offence concerned.

20. The cultural policy of Cuba had promoted and protected cultural rights. There was a broad network of cultural institutions in the country that aimed to ensure support for creators.

21. With regard to the situation of persons deprived of their liberty, Cuba ensured fair treatment and decent living conditions in penitentiary facilities. Detentions were carried out in accordance with criminal procedure and in compliance with due process guarantees. In addition, the Cuban public health system provided universal coverage and free care. Cuba had 80.2 doctors per 10,000 inhabitants, and 14 communicable diseases had been eliminated.

22. The Cuban political and electoral systems, the government structures and functions, human rights, the guarantees for their exercise and the duties of citizens were regulated by

[1] Available at http://webtv.un.org/search/cuba-review-30th-session-of-universal-periodic-review/5785774128001/?term=CUBA&sort=date&page=5.

legal provisions. Moreover, Cuban judges were independent in their functions and owed obedience only to the law.

23. Cuba had strengthened the protection of workers, including non-State actors, enabled full employment and the incorporation of young people into work, protected women and strengthened social security and assistance.

II. Conclusions and/or recommendations

24. **The following recommendations will be examined by Cuba, which will provide responses in due time, but no later than the thirty-ninth session of the Human Rights Council:**

24.1 **Ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Austria) (Japan) (Liechtenstein); Consider ratifying the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Côte d'Ivoire); Ratify the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Niger); Consider ratification of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights respectively (Cyprus); Consider ratifying the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (El Salvador); Consider ratification of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Chile); Ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Mexico) (Nepal) (Paraguay) (Slovakia) (France) (Portugal) (Australia); Ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, as previously recommended (Poland); Ratify without delay the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Germany); Consider ratification of the International Covenants on Human Rights (Peru); Finalize the process of ratification of the main international covenants, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Spain);**[2]

24.2 **Quickly proceed towards ratification of both the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, without reservations (Norway);**

24.3 **Consider ratifying the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Greece);**

24.4 **Ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and establish a legal and institutional framework that guarantee the free exercise of the rights enshrined in it, including the rights to freedom of expression, assembly and peaceful association, and sign and ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Costa Rica);**

24.5 **Ratify and implement the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Croatia);**

[2] The recommendation, as read out during the interactive dialogue, was: "Finalize the process of ratification of the main international covenants, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic Social and Cultural Rights, as well as other instruments, such as the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment".

24.6 Ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Trinidad and Tobago);

24.7 Ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Italy);

24.8 Accede to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and bring national legislation into compliance with these Covenants, including by ensuring unhindered Internet access (Czechia);

24.9 Consolidate the legal and institutional framework for the promotion and protection of human rights, among others, through expediting the ratification process of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Indonesia);

24.10 Ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and both its optional protocols (Estonia);

24.11 Ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and its Second Optional Protocol (Lithuania);

24.12 Consider ratifying the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Malta);

24.13 Ratify, without delay, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Finland);

24.14 Ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, without restrictions (Sweden);

24.15 Act in accordance with and ratify the already signed International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, without restrictions to freedom of expression, freedom of the press or freedom of assembly, and incorporate them into its national legislation (Netherlands);

24.16 Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Niger); Ratify those international instruments to which it is not yet a party, in particular the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Honduras);

24.17 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (France) (Portugal); Consider acceding to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, at the earliest convenience (Ghana); Ratify the main international instruments, such as the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Spain);[3]

24.18 Ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Austria) (France); Ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and fully align national legislation with all obligations under the Rome Statute (Latvia); Ratify the Rome Statute on the International Criminal Court in its 2010 version, including the Kampala amendments on the crime of aggression, and review its national legislation in order to ensure full alignment with the Statute (Liechtenstein);

[3] See footnote 2.

24.19 **Ratify the International Labour Organization (ILO) Protocol of 2014 to the Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29) (Portugal);**

24.20 **Ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, as previously recommended (Romania);**

24.21 **Ratify the core international human rights treaties, namely the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Slovenia);**

24.22 **Ratify the core human rights documents: the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Ukraine);**

24.23 **Consider ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Greece);**

24.24 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Bosnia and Herzegovina);**

24.25 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Estonia);**

24.26 **Consider ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Georgia);**

24.27 **Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Liechtenstein) (Togo); Consider ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights with a view to abolishing the death penalty, as previously recommended (Uruguay);**

24.28 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Bosnia and Herzegovina);**

24.29 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Democratic Republic of the Congo); Accede to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, as previously recommended (Liechtenstein);**

24.30 **Consider ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Slovenia);**

24.31 **Sign the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (El Salvador);**

24.32 **Consider becoming a party to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Sri Lanka);**

24.33 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (Kenya);**

24.34 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (Slovakia);**

24.35 **Issue and implement a standing invitation to all special procedures (Czechia);**

24.36 **Respond positively to the pending visit requests by the special procedure mandate holders of the Human Rights Council and consider extending a standing invitation to all mandate holders (Latvia);**

24.37 Extend invitations to the United Nations Special Rapporteurs on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association, and on the situation of human rights defenders (Finland);

24.38 Issue a standing invitation to all special procedures, including those working in the field of civil and political rights (Norway); Extend an open and permanent invitation to the special procedure mandate holders (Spain);

24.39 Issue a standing invitation to the special procedures of the Human Rights Council, including all Special Rapporteurs (Sweden);

24.40 Extend a permanent invitation to all special procedures of the Human Rights Council (Switzerland);

24.41 Continue constructive cooperation with the United Nations human rights mechanisms (Tajikistan);

24.42 Cooperate closely with human rights monitoring mechanisms (Ukraine);

24.43 Fully cooperate with human rights mechanisms and grant them unhindered access to Cuba, including to government officials, civil society organizations and human rights defenders, to prisons and detention centres (Germany);

24.44 Recognize the competence of treaty bodies to consider individual complaints (Ukraine);

24.45 Consider ratifying the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees (Lesotho);

24.46 Continue to strengthen the country's institutional and legal frameworks to enhance the promotion and protection of human rights (Zimbabwe);

24.47 Continue moving forward in the study of legislative amendments or new legislation necessary to achieve even better results in the promotion and protection of human rights (Angola);

24.48 Continue on the very encouraging trajectory of progress made with respect to its commitment to the protection and promotion of human rights (Barbados);

24.49 Continue to strengthen the democratic, popular and representative nature of the social order, State institutions and laws that ensure social justice for the whole population (Belarus);

24.50 Further strengthen legal and institutional frameworks for the protection of human rights (Bhutan);

24.51 Maintain the political will to promote the broadest possible enjoyment of civil and political rights, the protection of which is recognized by the Constitution and laws (Plurinational State of Bolivia);

24.52 Strengthen the legislative framework to protect and promote human rights for all citizens (Egypt);

24.53 Continue to strengthen the principle of legality in the actions of the law enforcement authorities (Kuwait);

24.54 Strengthen measures aimed at implementing the country's commitments derived from international instruments on human rights (Kyrgyzstan);

24.55 Continue the efforts to improve and strengthen human rights protection arrangements (Ethiopia);

24.56 Continue its efforts to encourage the participation of domestic legal institutions in international organizations with the aim to promote cooperation in the area of human rights protection (Myanmar);

24.57 Continue adopting measures for additional harmony between national legislation and the international treaties to which Cuba is a party (Oman);

24.58 Strengthen national mechanisms for follow-up and implementation of international human rights recommendations received by the State, through the establishment of a broad inter-institutional consultation mechanism that promotes the participation of civil society (Paraguay);

24.59 Incorporate the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment into its domestic law (France);

24.60 Continue efforts to strengthen the mechanisms and procedures to prevent and address human rights violations (State of Palestine);

24.61 Continue efforts to promote the integral and full development of human rights (Tunisia);

24.62 Ensure that the national institutions mandated to promote and protect human rights are given adequate resources to carry out their mandates (Uganda);

24.63 Fully implement all the international treaties it has ratified (Ukraine);

24.64 Continue to expand the framework of guarantees necessary for the exercise of civil and political rights, in conformity with national laws and the international instruments to which Cuba is a party (United Arab Emirates);

24.65 Continue measures to strengthen the capacity of national mechanisms for human rights protection (Uzbekistan);

24.66 Step up efforts to develop a system of human rights training (Uzbekistan);

24.67 Take steps towards establishing an independent national human rights institution in line with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles) (Botswana);

24.68 Create a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles and take legal and institutional measures to guarantee the independence of the judiciary (Costa Rica);

24.69 Establish a national human rights institution in conformity with the Paris Principles (Mongolia);

24.70 Establish an independent national human rights institution in compliance with the Paris Principles (Montenegro);

24.71 Establish an independent national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Mexico) (Nepal) (Togo) (Portugal); Establish a national human rights institution in conformity with the Paris Principles (Uruguay); Put in place a national human rights institution in compliance with the Paris Principles (Niger); Establish a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles and end the restrictions imposed on associations (France);

24.72 Establish an effective, public complaint handling system and a fully independent institution of the Ombudsman (Poland);

24.73 Establish an independent national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Zambia);

24.74 Intensify awareness campaigns to fight against racial stereotypes (Angola);

24.75 Continue actions to prevent manifestations of discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity (Plurinational State of Bolivia);

24.76 Maintain awareness-raising campaigns on the right to freedom of sexual orientation and gender identity (Plurinational State of Bolivia);

24.77 Continue developing actions to contribute to the prevention of and fight against racial discrimination from a cultural perspective (Burundi);

24.78 Continue to implement appropriate measures to ensure the equality of all its citizens (Cambodia);

24.79 Continue to take steps aimed at preventing and combating discrimination from a cultural point of view (Djibouti);

24.80 Continue to work towards better integration of Cubans of African descent in the political, social, cultural and economic life of the country (Haiti);

24.81 Continue training public and law enforcement officials on preventing and combating racism (Egypt);

24.82 Strengthen the application of the existing legal framework, which prohibits and punishes discrimination that affects human dignity and values (India);

24.83 Continue its efforts in the fight against racism and racial discrimination (Mali);

24.84 Continue efforts to combat racial discrimination (Peru);

24.85 Pursue efforts aimed at combating discrimination and at raising awareness among the Cuban population of its African heritage (Senegal);

24.86 Continue to develop the legal and institutional framework to fight against discrimination and racial prejudices and further advocate at international fora on the eradication of racism, hate speech and the promotion of supremacist ideologies (South Africa);

24.87 Continue efforts to combat racism and racial discrimination and encourage more discussion about the topic in the media (Tunisia);

24.88 Continue efforts to counteract all forms of racial discrimination (Turkey);

24.89 Continue with the fight against all forms of racial discrimination (United Republic of Tanzania);

24.90 Continue to support the work of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement (Afghanistan);

24.91 Continue to promote initiatives on international platforms on the compliance of economic, social and cultural rights and third-generation human rights that reflect the interests of developing countries (Belarus);

24.92 Continue to promote economic and social development according to national development plans, to better promote and protect human rights (China);

24.93 Maintain activities aimed at guaranteeing low levels of mortality as a result of natural disasters (Dominican Republic);

24.94 Strengthen cooperation and solidarity with the Caribbean Community Member States by providing technical assistance to strengthen capacity, particularly with a view to universal social protection and universal health care (Haiti);

24.95 Promote the necessity of eliminating politicization and contextualization of human rights issues at various fora (India);

24.96 Continue to update its economic and social model, in order to preserve and strengthen social justice and solidarity (Namibia);

24.97 Continue to strengthen early warning systems for natural disasters to increase the perception of risk in the population (Nigeria);

24.98 Continue advocating in the international fora for the need to combat Islamophobia and discriminatory stereotypes based on religion, particularly in the context of the fight against terrorism (Saudi Arabia);

24.99 Continue to modernize the legislative basis governing the civil defence system and regulate the preparedness and recovery functions for natural disasters (Syrian Arab Republic);

24.100 Keep denouncing the negative impact of the criminal economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed on Cuba by the United States of America, which affects the enjoyment of human rights (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);

24.101 Continue to protect its population against the effects of the embargo imposed by the United States of America (Plurinational State of Bolivia);

24.102 Continue condemning in international fora the unilateral coercive measures against developing countries, such as the blockade imposed by the United States against Cuba, as instruments which violate the peoples' human rights (Nicaragua);

24.103 Pursue its national agenda against the imposed embargo, which should be fully lifted to allow Cuba to build on its extraordinary record on socioeconomic rights (South Africa);

24.104 Continue to modernize the Cuban model of economic and social development in the face of the illegal American embargo that violates the human rights of the Cuban people (Syrian Arab Republic);

24.105 Continue to provide humanitarian assistance, particularly in the health field, to countries affected by disasters and major epidemics and share the experience of the Henry Reeve International Contingent (Algeria);

24.106 Maintain current South-South cooperation programmes with other Caribbean countries, including sharing the Cuban model of Risk Reduction Management Centres (Jamaica);

24.107 Continue to encourage dialogue and cooperation with other States in the field of human rights, based on the principles of mutual respect, sovereign equality, self-determination and the right to independently determine their political system (Russian Federation);

24.108 Continue fostering the development of values at all levels in society to help fight corruption (Kuwait);

24.109 Expand and share experiences with other countries in the prevention and treatment of diseases such as cholera, dengue and HIV (Mozambique);

24.110 Share at the international level, with the support of the United Nations, its experiences of bilateral cooperation in the promotion of the right to health, especially in the areas of training of human resources and of support to health services throughout the world (Tajikistan);

24.111 Promote and participate in the exchange of experience and good practice in the treatment of inmates and in detention conditions (Democratic People's Republic of Korea);

24.112 **Stop arbitrarily arresting people, before, during and after peaceful demonstrations and release those who have been arbitrarily arrested (Iceland); End arbitrary detention of political activists (Australia);**

24.113 **Continue to implement the necessary measures to ensure public safety and maintain the atmosphere of tranquility, internal order and confidence of the population in the authorities (Islamic Republic of Iran);**

24.114 **Guarantee that all detainees have access to a lawyer of their choice from the outset of the deprivation of liberty (Ireland);**

24.115 **Take concrete measures to promote the fair justice principles consistent with international standards, especially by reviewing the legislation on and implementation of pretrial detention (Italy);**

24.116 **Continue to provide assistance and counselling in prisons to applicants (Lebanon);**

24.117 **End arbitrary detention and harassment of human rights defenders as well as media workers (Lithuania);**

24.118 **Enable independent human rights monitoring at all detention sites (Lithuania);**

24.119 **Promote inmates' access to culture and sports, as part of educational work programmes that are implemented in prisons (Malaysia);**

24.120 **Take measures to put an end to arbitrary detentions by ensuring that persons under arrest have immediate access to a defence counsel and are promptly brought before an independent judge for a hearing (Netherlands);**

24.121 **Immediately and unconditionally release all prisoners of conscience who have been imprisoned solely for the peaceful exercise of their rights to freedom of expression, association or peaceful assembly (New Zealand);**

24.122 **Continue to strengthen the mechanisms, channels and resources provided for prisoners to have timely access to legal assistance in prisons (Nigeria);**

24.123 **Continue to strengthen the measures to guarantee the right of all persons deprived of liberty to access the immediate remedies that allow them to challenge the legality of their detention (Nigeria);**

24.124 **Ensure that prisoners are treated with dignity and humanity (Poland);**

24.125 **Release all those who have been arrested on politically motivated charges (Slovakia);**

24.126 **Encourage less use of pretrial detention as a precautionary measure and ensure its use only for the most serious crimes (Sudan);**

24.127 **Continue to ensure that prisoners and detainees are treated with the dignity inherent to the human condition, in compliance with the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (Sudan);**

24.128 **Strengthen the implementation of programmes that favour the preventive approach and social reintegration of inmates to avoid the reproduction of patterns and criminal behaviour (Sudan);**

24.129 **Intensify efforts aimed at improving detention conditions in prisons (Georgia);**

24.130 **Continue to improve the prison system, particularly in the area of infrastructure development and living conditions in these facilities (Syrian Arab Republic);**

24.131 Encourage the inclusion of a larger number prison inmates in the training and education process, to provide them with employment opportunities (Syrian Arab Republic);

24.132 End measures to restrict freedom of expression and assembly including short-term detentions and the use of broad criminal charges such as "dangerousness" (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);

24.133 Ensure full compliance with the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners and allow independent human rights monitors access to prison and detention centres (Zambia);

24.134 Consider including forced disappearance in its national legislation as a separate offence and a crime against humanity (Argentina);

24.135 Formally abolish the death penalty (Australia); Abolish the death penalty for ordinary crimes as a first step towards the complete abolition of the death penalty (Belgium); Adopt the necessary measures for the abolition of the death penalty (Brazil); Legally abolish the death penalty (Cabo Verde); Give due consideration to the legal abolition of the death penalty (Liechtenstein); Abolish the death penalty (France) (Portugal);

24.136 Include enforced disappearance in domestic law as a stand-alone crime and make it a crime against humanity (Democratic Republic of the Congo);

24.137 Maintain the moratorium on executions and consider moving towards the abolition of death penalty (Italy);

24.138 Abolish the death penalty including through ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (New Zealand);

24.139 Consider imposing a de facto moratorium on the use of the death penalty with a view to its total abolition (Rwanda);

24.140 Abolish the death penalty for all crimes (Switzerland);

24.141 Strengthen the penal protection afforded by national legislation against violations of civil and political rights, in particular when they are committed by public officials or law enforcement officers (Algeria);

24.142 Maintain the head-on fight against corruption, as a means of guaranteeing legality and trust in the Government and judicial institutions (Azerbaijan);

24.143 Continue to improve the judicial system, in all areas (Burkina Faso);

24.144 Improve transparency and due process in the justice system by ensuring that arrested individuals are promptly informed of the reasons, have access to legal representation of their choosing, are afforded public hearings within a reasonable timeframe, and are presumed innocent until proven guilty (Canada);

24.145 Continue fostering a greater culture of rejection of corruption (Democratic People's Republic of Korea);

24.146 Study and adopt measures that favour a faster process of criminal proceedings (Jordan);

24.147 Strengthen the provisions and legal rules guaranteeing due process before the judiciary (Lebanon);

24.148 Continue raising the levels of specialization of judges, prosecutors and lawyers, as well as their professional ethical training (Malaysia);

24.149 Strengthen the juvenile justice system for the treatment of children and adolescents who are in conflict with the law (Pakistan);

24.150 **Take relevant steps to guarantee the independence and impartiality of the judiciary (Poland);**

24.151 **Continue to promote the principles of justice and the independence of judges and lawyers, in accordance with the provisions of national legislation and in conformity with Cuba's international obligations (Qatar);**

24.152 **Advance in the revision of article 121 of its Constitution and implement measures that ensure the independence and impartiality of the judiciary (Spain);**

24.153 **Continue taking further steps for the strengthening of the judicial system (Tajikistan);**

24.154 **Ensure the right to a fair trial and improve prison conditions through ratification of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, adherence to the Basic Principles on the Independence of the Judiciary, the Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers, and the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

24.155 **Redouble efforts to perfect people's power at the local level, as a genuine expression of its democratic model (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**

24.156 **Continue actions to ensure that citizens know the ways and means for the protection of human rights (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**

24.157 **Continue to expand Internet services through.. the country, especially in households (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**

24.158 **Recognize human rights monitoring as a legitimate activity, provide legal status to local human rights groups, cease using tactics that intimidate them, and allow human rights defenders and civil society to engage with the United Nations and its mechanisms (Australia);**

24.159 **Remove Internet access restrictions and relax control of the broader media environment (Australia);**

24.160 **Bring the framework on freedom of association and assembly into line with international law and standards (Austria); Adopt concrete measures aimed at eliminating restrictions to the right of association and to freedom of expression that are inconsistent with international human rights law (Brazil);**

24.161 **Take effective measures to guarantee that Internet access corresponds to international regulations that protect the right to seek, receive and disseminate information and ideas (Austria);**

24.162 **Promote greater participation of public institutions, the population, social and mass organizations in the fight against corruption (Azerbaijan);**

24.163 **Improve the climate for freedom of expression by taking steps to develop independent and pluralist media (Belgium); Consider promoting a more pluralist and independent mass media environment (Chile);**

24.164 **Publicly acknowledge the role and work of members of civil society and take the necessary steps to ensure that human rights defenders and members of civil society organizations can exercise their rights to peaceful freedom of expression, assembly and association, in conformity with Cuba's international obligations (Belgium);**

24.165 **Continue its efforts to expand access to information and culture to its people (Bhutan);**

24.166 **Increase the Internet penetration rate and the use of broadband Internet (Plurinational State of Bolivia);**

24.167 **Abstain from all forms of harassment, intimidation and repression against social activists, human rights defenders and journalists (Brazil);**

Guarantee freedom of expression, assembly and association and put an end to the harassment, intimidation, persecution and arbitrary detention of human rights activists, journalists and members of the opposition (France); Immediately stop arbitrary detention, imprisonment and harassment of activists who peacefully exercise their rights to freedom of expression, association or peaceful assembly (Germany);

24.168 **Facilitate creation of a more pluralistic media environment in conformity with international standards (Bulgaria);**

24.169 **Increase the knowledge of the population, from an early age, about the political system in the country, the ways to participate in the conduct of public affairs and the mechanism of accountability (Cambodia);**

24.170 **Adopt legislation providing legal status for non-governmental organizations and independent journalists (Canada);**

24.171 **Immediately eliminate harassment and intimidation of activists, including arbitrary short-term and pretrial detentions as well as house arrest (Canada);**

24.172 **Take the necessary measures to ensure the right of all people to freedom of expression, freedom of assembly and peaceful association (Chile); Respect everyone's rights to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and association (Iceland); Respect everyone's rights to freedom of expression and to peaceful assembly and association (Slovakia); Establish measures that guarantee freedom of association, freedom of expression and freedom of the press (Spain); Review all legal provisions, including article 62 of the Constitution which unduly restricts the rights to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and association, to bring them in line with international law and standards (Germany);**

24.173 **Maintain and improve existing measures and mechanisms to encourage young people to participate in all social affairs (China);**

24.174 **Remove legislative and practical obstacles for the functioning of civil society (Croatia);**

24.175 **Implement legal safeguards protecting civil society and media workers against abuse of provisions for criminal prosecution, including by repealing articles 72, 73 and 74 of the Criminal Code as well as the Law No. 88 (Czechia);**

24.176 **Continue to foster good relations with the different religious institutions (India);**

24.177 **Continue to improve the Cuban political system, upholding the values of the society and the national unity, and promoting democracy (Islamic Republic of Iran);**

24.178 **Ensure that civil society members, human rights defenders and journalists can operate free from hindrance and insecurity, including by repealing legislation relating to so-called "pre-criminal social dangerousness" (Ireland);**

24.179 **Guarantee freedom of opinion and expression, online and offline, including dissenting political opinions, and safeguard the activity of human rights defenders and journalists (Italy);**

24.180 **Ensure Internet accessibility with the aim of improving the quality of education and social development (Japan);**

24.181 **Ensure everyone's rights to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and association and to freedom of movement, including for civil society representatives, journalists and human rights defenders (Estonia);**

24.182 **Adopt a freedom of information law in accordance with international standards (Estonia);**

24.183 **Decriminalize defamation and include it in the Civil Code in accordance with international standards (Estonia);**

24.184 **End measures restricting the rights to freedom of expression and to peaceful assembly and association, including short-term detentions of political opponents, human rights activists and members of civil society organizations, as well as intimidation and arrests of journalists (Latvia);**

24.185 **Improve the possibilities of using Internet in rural and low-income areas (Lebanon);**

24.186 **Enable and promote the work of civil society by discontinuing restrictive laws and practices (Lithuania);**

24.187 **Guarantee freedom of peaceful assembly and association for all citizens in accordance with international standards (Lithuania);**

24.188 **Promote the effective use of mass media, mobile technologies and the Internet to increase awareness about disaster reduction (Malaysia);**

24.189 **Continue strengthening the space of national non-profit associations in the country (Maldives);**

24.190 **Continue to strengthen the right of access to information for citizens in the areas of management of government and public institutions (Ethiopia);**

24.191 **Continue guaranteeing the right of everyone to freedom of worship and not to profess any religion, in accordance with the Constitution (Mozambique);**

24.192 **Review all legal provisions which restrict the rights to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly, and association, to ensure compliance with international human rights law and standards (New Zealand);**

24.193 **Continue to remove unlawful limitations on the right to access information and on the freedom of opinion and expression under international human rights law (New Zealand);**

24.194 **Develop and implement specific laws, policies and mechanisms that recognize and protect the work of civil society, human rights defenders and journalists (Norway);**

24.195 **Continue adopting measures to further increase the participation of young people in the most important decision-making processes in the country (Pakistan);**

24.196 **Redouble efforts to strengthen the rights to peaceful assembly and association and to guarantee to independent journalists the free exercise of their profession without discrimination on political grounds (Peru);**

24.197 **Strengthen measures to achieve public and political participation while respecting plurality (Peru);**

24.198 **Take effective measures to ensure freedom of expression, of the press and of association, as well as affordable and unrestricted access to the Internet for all (Poland);**

24.199 **Ensure low-priced access to Internet facilities and complete freedom of expression online (Romania);**

24.200 **Continue to expand the space and create mechanisms for the population to express its opinion on the main issues of national and international interest (Russian Federation);**

24.201 **Review legal provisions that restrict the rights of freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and association, and bring them in line with Cuba's international human rights obligations (Sweden);**

24.202 **Bring its electoral legislation in line with international law and standards (Sweden);**

24.203 **Take the necessary measures in order to guarantee the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and association, in conformity with international law, particularly human rights (Switzerland);**

24.204 **Increase the use of e-government as a method to improve the interrelation between citizens and the Government at all levels (Turkey);**

24.205 **Take measures to improve the participation of special groups, including the elderly and persons with disabilities, in the electoral and decision-making processes (Uganda);**

24.206 **Eliminate all restrictions on the right to freedom of opinion and expression and the right to free access to information (Ukraine);**

24.207 **Continue to promote the full right to freedom of religion (United Arab Emirates);**

24.208 **Reform its one-party system to allow for genuinely free and fair multiparty elections that provide citizens with real choices regarding their government (United States of America);**

24.209 **Cease the practice of arbitrarily detaining journalists, opposition members, and human rights defenders, including pre-emptively, and adopt a legal framework that ensures judicial independence (United States of America);**

24.210 **Release individuals who were arbitrarily detained and imprisoned for peaceful assembly, investigating and reporting on government activity, or expressing political dissent, and allow them to travel freely both domestically and internationally without limitation (United States of America);**

24.211 **Update standards and procedures to prosecute all manifestations of human trafficking and ensure that the penalties reflect the gravity of the crime, in conformity with international obligations and the operating modes and forms of this unlawful activity (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**

24.212 **Increase information and training on trafficking in persons among professionals and workers of entities responsible for prevention of this phenomenon (Bangladesh);**

24.213 **Establish a specific protection mechanism for victims of trafficking and provide, as necessary, medical and psychological assistance, legal advice, material support and social reintegration (Bangladesh);**

24.214 **Continue and expand the current efforts at tackling all aspects of trafficking in persons (Guyana);**

24.215 **Continue taking measures to fight against forced prostitution and trafficking of women for sexual exploitation (Côte d'Ivoire);**

24.216 **Introduce public awareness programmes on trafficking in persons (Trinidad and Tobago);**

24.217 **Adopt comprehensive legislation and policy to prevent and combat trafficking in persons, which includes measures to protect the victims (Honduras);**

24.218 **Continue efforts to combat trafficking in persons (Iraq);**

24.219 **Consolidate the investigations of alleged cases of trafficking of persons, reinforce the means and human resources to combat it, and vigorously prosecute those involved to avoid impunity (Jordan);**

24.220 Disseminate the knowledge and experiences acquired and capitalize upon them in order to continue strengthening the perception of risk in society, and correspondingly, improve the mechanisms to prevent, combat and protect victims of trafficking (Kuwait);

24.221 Continue taking measures to implement the 2017–2020 national action plan to prevent and combat trafficking in persons and protect victims (Kazakhstan);

24.222 Maintain the policy of "zero tolerance" against trafficking in persons and strengthen the mechanisms for detecting this crime (Kyrgyzstan);

24.223 Ensure that trafficking and sexual exploitation of children is properly sanctioned through normative and judicial measures (Madagascar);

24.224 Increase the participation of civil society organizations, communities and families in actions aimed at stopping, disseminating information, alerting and denouncing human trafficking to the corresponding State institutions, as well as in the identification of cases or persons vulnerable of being victims of this crime (Nicaragua);

24.225 Continue efforts in preventing the consumption and trafficking of illegal drugs and maintain a policy of zero tolerance (Philippines);

24.226 Establish measures aimed at preferential attention to victims of trafficking who are in situations of greater vulnerability (Philippines);

24.227 Continue its efforts to combat trafficking in persons, including by consolidating joint coordination among relevant institutions, and paying due attention to victims, especially women and children (Qatar);

24.228 Implement a zero-tolerance policy against trafficking and sexual exploitation of children (Senegal);

24.229 Continue efforts to increase public awareness about trafficking in persons (Turkey);

24.230 Criminalize all forms of human trafficking in line with the Palermo protocols, and address reportedly coercive elements of Cuban labour practices and foreign medical missions (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);

24.231 Strengthen actions to increase the perception of risk in the population and increase its participation in alerts and complaints against trafficking in persons (Viet Nam);

24.232 Consider setting the same age limit for girls and boys in exceptional cases of marriage below the age of 18 (Jamaica);

24.233 Continue its efforts aimed at an effective equality of opportunities in access to work (Cabo Verde);

24.234 Pursue the strengthening and improvement of the national legal framework governing labour law (Morocco);

24.235 Ensure equal opportunities for women in the labour market including by adopting provisions on the principle of equal pay for work of equal value (Iceland);

24.236 Continue strengthening the development of legislation to protect labour and social rights (Eritrea);

24.237 Increase the knowledge of workers in different sectors of the economy of their labour and social security rights, and the mechanisms, ways and resources to strengthen them (Lao People's Democratic Republic);

24.238 Include in the Labour Code the prohibition of sexual harassment and criminalize domestic violence and femicide (Paraguay);

24.239 **Continue to accept all necessary measures to protect workers' rights in the non-public sector in the light of ongoing economic reforms in the country (Russian Federation);**

24.240 **Expand jobs in the non-State sector, as an alternative to employment, taking into account the new organizational forms and services that have been established (State of Palestine);**

24.241 **Further enhance the implementation of all the ILO Conventions to which Cuba is a State party (Thailand);**

24.242 **Continue efforts to combat discrimination against women and create equal opportunity in the context of employment (Tunisia);**

24.243 **Improve the means of protecting people in situations of vulnerability or at risk of not accessing their right to food (Algeria);**

24.244 **Pursue its efforts and achievements to broaden the application of information and communication technologies to activities in various sectors of economic and social life (Benin);**

24.245 **Intensify the development of initiatives linked to the health and social welfare of older persons (Guinea);**

24.246 **Maintain efforts to guarantee the full protection of elderly people (Congo);**

24.247 **Continue improving benefits and protection guaranteed by the social security system and continue providing assistance to older persons, in order to ensure a better quality of life (Democratic People's Republic of Korea);**

24.248 **Consolidate programmes that benefit the elderly (Islamic Republic of Iran);**

24.249 **Improve and strengthen the national network of institutions to benefit and protect elderly persons (Lao People's Democratic Republic);**

24.250 **Continue strengthening programmes granting lands in usufruct to young people as part of the strategies aimed at agricultural development and maintain as a priority the care for young inhabitants in rural areas (Nicaragua);**

24.251 **Continue efforts in the realization of economic, social and cultural rights (South Africa);**

24.252 **Continue to work towards the full realization of the right to food by implementing the national plan for the prevention and control of anaemia, especially among children (Thailand);**

24.253 **Continue its efforts to create environments that facilitate the mobility of older persons (Timor-Leste);**

24.254 **Redouble its efforts to preserve and improve progress in the areas of health, education and the fight against discrimination and social inequalities (Togo);**

24.255 **Strengthen specialized training programmes for health and social work personnel who are responsible for serving older persons (Viet Nam);**

24.256 **Continue to implement the "Operación Milagro" programme for the treatment of ophthalmological diseases (El Salvador);**

24.257 **Improve access to health-care services and social benefits for all persons (Trinidad and Tobago);**

24.258 **Redouble efforts to guarantee access to sexual education and reproductive health (Honduras);**

24.259 Take measures to ensure that mother-to-child transmission of HIV and syphilis remains eradicated in Cuba (Jamaica);

24.260 Intensify its approach to curtailing teenage pregnancies by making greater use of Cuba's comprehensive expertise in health and youth development (Jamaica);

24.261 Maintain and continue to develop the implementation of policies for the access of the population to quality medical services (Kazakhstan);

24.262 Improve the health sector especially through the training of health personnel, promoting awareness on HIV and AIDS and the rights of those suffering from this disease (Kenya);

24.263 Continue to consolidate the quality of the health-care system (Lesotho);

24.264 Continue ensuring free and universal access to public health (Maldives);

24.265 Continue studying and addressing the negative impact of the consumption of illicit drugs on health and the quality of life of people (Saudi Arabia);

24.266 Endeavour to build sufficient nursing homes, day-care centres and geriatric hospitals in time to cater to Cuba's ageing population in future (Singapore);

24.267 Strengthen medical and social services at the community level, including collaborating with relevant community actors, to allow older persons to age in place (Singapore);

24.268 Increase access to and use of effective and high quality contraceptive methods to improve the quality of sexual and reproductive health services (Equatorial Guinea);

24.269 Promote human rights education on all levels, especially within law enforcement (Austria);

24.270 Increase the content related to gender equality and human rights in masters' studies and courses for public officials and law enforcement authorities (Guinea);

24.271 Continue ensuring universal and free access to quality education for all at different levels of education (Brunei Darussalam);

24.272 Continue improving the national system of artistic education at all levels (Brunei Darussalam);

24.273 Continue making progress in raising the quality and rigour of the teaching-learning process (Burundi);

24.274 Continue to give priority to the promotion, protection and realization of the right to education for all (China);

24.275 Continue strengthening the training and qualification of teaching personnel (Congo);

24.276 Continue to make progress in improving the quality and rigour of the teaching and learning process (Djibouti);

24.277 Continue promoting the "Yo sí puedo" and "Yo sí puedo seguir" literacy programmes as a contribution to the efforts to combat illiteracy (El Salvador);

24.278 Continue to implement policies aimed at fostering a greater culture of respect, tolerance, non-violence and non-discrimination in the education sector (Indonesia);

24.279 **Strengthen the technical professional education system as a quality educational alternative for the development of the country (Eritrea);**

24.280 **Continue taking efforts to ensure equal opportunity to education for women and girls (Iraq);**

24.281 **Strengthen the link between universities and research institutions with productive centres, as a contribution of education and science to the development of the country (Lao People's Democratic Republic);**

24.282 **Continue to promote the use of information and communications technology penetration at all levels of education and skills developments from the early age (Myanmar);**

24.283 **Continue efforts aimed at improving the structural framework and the quality of services of cultural institutions (Oman);**

24.284 **Continue to strengthen the special education system and its institutions throughout the country to ensure quality education for children, adolescents and youth with disabilities (Pakistan);**

24.285 **Continue evaluating and adopting measures to increase the number of children, adolescents and youth with disabilities in the different levels of education of the national education system (Timor-Leste);**

24.286 **Further strengthen schools and educational programmes in remote and inaccessible areas (United Arab Emirates);**

24.287 **Continue to improve, update and expand the scope of human rights training for civil servants and the general public (Zambia);**

24.288 **Continue with the efforts to promote equality between men and women (Ghana);**

24.289 **Continue making progress in the empowerment of women in all sectors (Ghana);**

24.290 **Continue to implement a gender perspective in its national policies aimed at achieving equality for women (Zimbabwe);**

24.291 **Improve the measures taken to reduce gender stereotypes in relation to the roles and responsibilities of women in the family and society (Afghanistan);**

24.292 **Consider including in its national legislation a law on violence against women that criminalizes it in all its forms (Argentina);**

24.293 **Intensify efforts to empower women politically and economically (Bahrain);**

24.294 **Pursue its efforts to promote the status of women and gender equality (Benin);**

24.295 **Endeavour to promote racial harmony through improvement of equality for women of African descent (Botswana);**

24.296 **Take further measures to improve the access of elderly women, rural women and women with disabilities to health-care services, social benefits and public participation (Bulgaria);**

24.297 **Continue and increase the current efforts and awareness-raising actions to combat traditional and cultural attitudes to combat any perceived discrimination against women (Guyana);**

24.298 **Adopt a comprehensive strategy on combating discrimination against women (Cyprus);**

24.299 **Take special temporary measures to speed up the process of establishing real equality for women, in particular women of African descent,**

elderly women, women with disabilities and rural women (Democratic Republic of the Congo);

24.300 **Continue awareness-raising campaigns to combat patriarchal and gender stereotypes (Dominican Republic);**

24.301 **Adopt a comprehensive strategy to modify or eliminate patriarchal attitudes and stereotypes that discriminate against women (Honduras);**

24.302 **Continue efforts to combat all forms of violence against persons, including domestic violence (Libya);**

24.303 **Review the national legal framework to include violence against women as a crime in all its forms, and develop a plan of action for the prevention of all forms of violence against women, assistance and protection of victims, as well as the sensitization of the population and public officials (Mexico);**

24.304 **Continue efforts to combat gender-based and domestic violence (Nepal);**

24.305 **Strengthen measures to combat violence against women and domestic violence, including through enhancing existing legislation to better ensure accountability for victims (Rwanda);**

24.306 **Establish a national mechanism to regularly monitor the impact of social and economic policies on disadvantaged groups of women such as women of African descent, elderly women, rural women and women with disabilities (Serbia);**

24.307 **Step up efforts to prevent violence against women (Georgia);**

24.308 **Continue to improve the legal and governmental mechanisms in the field of promotion and protection of women's rights and enhance their participation in all development fields (Syrian Arab Republic);**

24.309 **Increase the efforts that have been made to combat violence against women, and strengthen mechanisms of prevention, protection and attention to the phenomenon of violence against women (Timor-Leste);**

24.310 **Continue to implement measures to eliminate gender stereotypes in the national idiosyncrasy (Turkey);**

24.311 **Continue to encourage and promote greater access for women to leadership positions in all sectors of society (Viet Nam);**

24.312 **Take the necessary steps to highlight the activities of young people in the different sectors of society and their contribution to the country's development efforts (Algeria);**

24.313 **Continue adopting the necessary measures to promote the best interest of the child (Dominican Republic);**

24.314 **Continue efforts to promote the rights of children and the elderly (Morocco);**

24.315 **Ensure that national legislation is in accordance with the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (Madagascar);**

24.316 **Pursue ongoing efforts to raise awareness of the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Mauritania);**

24.317 **Revise current legislation in order to explicitly prohibit corporal punishment of children in all settings, including at home (Montenegro);**

24.318 **Continue applying and improving the cooperation project on disseminating the rights of children and adolescents, particularly at the local level (Nicaragua);**

24.319 Finalize the process of elaboration and adoption of a national plan for children for the period 2015–2030 (Gabon);

24.320 Continue to implement the national plan of action for children, adolescents and the family with regular monitoring (Sri Lanka);

24.321 Continue giving particular attention to the protection of the rights of the child (Turkey);

24.322 Guarantee the protection of girls, boys and adolescents against all forms of economic and sexual exploitation (Turkmenistan);

24.323 Continue the preventive assistance related to drug consumption in the field of education of children and youth (Turkmenistan);

24.324 Continue harmonizing national laws, including criminal justice, with the provisions established in the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocols (Uruguay);

24.325 Continue to support the participation of Cuban Paralympic athletes in national, regional and world sports events (Algeria);

24.326 Take further steps to protect the rights of persons with special needs (Bahrain);

24.327 Assess and improve, when necessary, the legal framework on the rights of persons with disabilities and promote their participation in national development (Belarus);

24.328 Continue to support the work, activities and programmes of Cuban organizations of persons with disabilities (Guinea);

24.329 Strengthen measures to improve the accessibility of persons with disabilities to buildings and other public spaces (Burkina Faso);

24.330 Continue the efforts to expand the access of persons with disabilities to literature in accessible formats, according to the different types of disabilities (Democratic People's Republic of Korea);

24.331 Continue improving comprehensive protection and social welfare programmes benefiting persons with disabilities and their families, including in the field of education (Ecuador);

24.332 Continue providing protection and social welfare to the mothers of children with severe disabilities, so that they can dedicate attention and care to their children as a remunerated activity which accumulates working time for their social security (Ecuador);

24.333 Prioritize public policies aimed at meeting the special needs of persons with disabilities (Islamic Republic of Iran);

24.334 Continue efforts to implement actions to strengthen the access of persons with disabilities to information and communications technology (Tunisia);

24.335 Continue its efforts to ensure that persons with disabilities enjoy equal access to employment (Yemen);

24.336 Continue applying immigration policy reforms that have equally benefited Cuban emigrants and Cubans travelling abroad (Namibia);

24.337 Maintain the current fair and dignified treatment of refugees and asylum seekers in the country (Namibia);

24.338 Continue to work with bilateral and multilateral partners for better protection of the rights of migrants (Philippines);

24.339 Continue taking further measures aimed at reducing cases of statelessness (Namibia).

25. All conclusions and/or recommendations contained in the present report reflect the position of the submitting State(s) and/or the State under review. They should not be construed as endorsed by the Working Group as a whole.

Annex

Composition of the delegation

The delegation of Cuba was headed by H.E. Mr. Bruno Eduardo Rodriguez Parrilla, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cuba, and composed of the following members:

- H.E. Mr. Oscar Manuel Silvera Martinez, Vice-President of the Popular Supreme Court;
- H.E. Mr. Eldys Baratute Benavides, Member of the Cuban Parliament, President in Guantanamo of the "Asociacion Hermanos Saiz", Ministry of Culture;
- H.E. Mr. Pedro Luis Pedroso Cuesta, Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations Office at Geneva and other international organizations in Switzerland;
- H.E. Mr. Rodolfo Reyes Rodriguez, Director General of the Multilateral Affairs and International Law Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- H.E. Mrs. Alba Soto Pimentel, Director, Europe and Canada Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- H.E. Mrs. Barbara Elena Montalvo Alvarez, Chief of Cabinet, Office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs;
- Mr. Rafael Angel Soler Lopez, Chief of the Citizen Services Division, Attorney General's Office;
- Mr. Luis Emilio Cadaval San Martin, Official, Ministry of the Interior;
- Mrs. Olga Lidia Perez Diaz, Director of Notary's offices, Ministry of Justice;
- Mrs. Miriam Lau Valdes, Director for International Relations and Communication, Ministry of Labour and Social Security;
- Mr. Jorge Juan Delgado Bustillo, First Deputy Director, Central Medical Cooperation Unit, Ministry of Public Health;
- Mr. Juan Antonio Quintanilla Roman, Chief of the Social and Humanitarian Affairs Department, Multilateral Affairs and International Law Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- Mrs. Claudia Perez Alvarez, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations Office at Geneva and other international organizations in Switzerland;
- Mr. Pablo Berti Oliva, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations Office at Geneva and other international organizations in Switzerland;
- Mrs. Ena Domech More, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations Office at Geneva and other international organizations in Switzerland;
- Mr. Alejandro Gonzalez Behmaras, Adviser, Multilateral Affairs and International Law Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- Mrs. Heidy Laura Villuendas Ortega, Adviser, Press, Communication and Information Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- Mrs. Belkis Romeu Alvarez, Third Secretary, Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations Office at Geneva and other international organizations in Switzerland.